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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/539,594 Confirmation No. : 4786

First Named Inventor : Axel HEBENSTREIT Filed : October 18, 2006

TC/A.U. : 3682 Examiner : (TBA)

Docket No. : 095309.56366US

Customer No. : 23911

Title : Steering Column Arrangement

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 AND 1.98

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the attached Form PTO-1449 lists documents which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

## I. <u>Time Period of Submission</u>

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

≥ 1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or 2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later) or 3) before a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination, and therefore no statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R.§ 1.17(p) is required.
2) after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action closing prosecution (Exparte Quayle), (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith:
a Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e); or
a fee in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
3) after either a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee, and therefore Applicant is submitting herewith:

a Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e); and

a fee in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

II. Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)
I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement; or
I hereby state that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making a reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement; or
III. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d)
I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
IV. Submission of Non-English Language Documents
The following is a concise explanation of relevance of the non- English language documents listed in the attached Form PTO-1449:
The relevance of document(s) to the subject matter of the present invention is/are provided in the specification of the above-identified application.
Corresponding foreign or international report(s) citing document(s) <u>B1 &amp; B2</u> , together with an English-language version(s) (if not already in English) of that portion of the report(s) indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office(s) is/are submitted.
English language family member publication(s) of document(s) <b>B1 &amp; B2</b> is/are noted on Form PTO-1449.
English language abstract(s) is/are submitted for document(s) B1.

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			Applicant	submits	the	following	explanations:
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							ation Serial No. aims benefit. As
since	they	n 37 C. were pr	F.R. §1.98(d)	, copies of th nitted to or c	e docun	nents are not the United St	being provided ates Patent and
				_			as an admission

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

If necessary, this paper should be considered as an authorization to charge Deposit Account 05-1323, Attorney Docket No.: 095309.56366US, for the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

Respectfully submitted,

August 23, 2007

Cameron W. Beddard Registration No. 46,545

CROWELL & MORING LLP Intellectual Property Group P.O. Box 14300 Washington, DC 20044-4300 Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500 Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844

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PTO/SB/08a (09-06)

Approved for use through 03/31/2007. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number 10/539,594

Filing Date October 18, 2006

First Named Inventor Axel HEBENSTREIT

Art Unit 3682

Examiner Name (TBA)

Sheet 2 Attorney Docket Number 095309.56366US **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS** Examiner Cite Document Number Publication Date Name of Patentee or Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Initials' MM-DD-YYYY No. Applicant of Cited Document Relevant Passages or Relevant Number-Kind Code<sup>2</sup> (if known) Figures Appear Α1 US-6,892,602 05-17-2005 Hirschfeld et al. A2 US-4,277,658 07-07-1981 Delp et al. us. USusus-US-US-US-US-US-USus-US-USus-US-

		FOREIG	ON PATENT DO	CUMENTS		
		Foreign Patent Document			Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages	
Examiner Initials'	Cite No.1	Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> ( <i>if known</i> )	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
	B1	EP 1 403 168 A2	03-31-2004	Kostal Leopold GmbH & Co KG	Corresponds to A1	ABS
	B2	DE 28 10 790 A1	09-20-1979	Adam Opel AG	Corresponds to A2	
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Examiner		Date	
Signature		Considered	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

PTO/SB/08b (09-06)

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Substitute	bstitute for form 1449B/PTO			Application Number	10/539,594	
IN	FORMATION DISC	n o	SURF	Filing Date	October 18, 2006	
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				First Named Inventor	Axel HEBENSTREIT	
			CAN	Art Unit	3682	
(Use as many sheets as necessary)				Examiner Name	(TBA)	
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	095309.56366US	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>		
	C1	European Search Report dated June 22, 2007 with English Translation (Eleven (11) pages).			
Examiner		Date Considered			

<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.